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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/781,024	02/17/2004	Yoshiharu Yoneda	60,842 (70904)	2825

7590 04/21/2006  
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP  
P.O. Box 55874  
Boston, MA 02205

EXAMINER
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JOERGER, KAITLIN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/781,024	<b>Applicant(s)</b> YONEDA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Kaitlin S. Joerger	<b>Art Unit</b> 3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 8-10, 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4-7 and 11-13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/17/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 03128838 A.

The JP '838 patent teaches a sheet conveying apparatus comprising (i) a pair of conveying rollers, 17a and 17b, for sandwiching a sheet and conveying the sheet in a direction and (ii) a supporting body for supporting the pair of conveying rollers, the sheet conveying apparatus conveying the sheet via a conveying path through which the sheet is conveyed by the conveying roller pair, the supporting body including a first unit having one of the roller pair and a second unit having the other, the first and second unit separable in a direction substantially parallel to the conveying path in a direction opposite the sheet conveying direction, see figure 1(b). Only one of the units is movable and one of the rollers is mounted on the movable unit. The sheet conveying apparatus is disposed within an image forming apparatus.

Claims 9, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kozuka et al.

Kozuka et al. teaches a sheet conveying apparatus comprising (i) a first pair of conveying rollers, 20 and 21, for sandwiching a sheet and conveying the sheet in a predetermined direction,

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(ii) a second pair of conveying rollers, 12 and 13, supporting bodies for the rollers, and conveying paths through the rollers, the supporting bodies including a third unit having the first pair of conveying rollers and one of the second rollers, a fourth unit having the other of the second pair of conveying rollers, the third and fourth unit separable in a direction parallel to the conveying path. The sheet conveying apparatus within a an image forming apparatus, see figures 1 and 2.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 4-7, 11-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applied references are considered to be the most relevant prior art and they, nor any other reference, do not teach a movable supporting member that supports one of the rollers and is movable in a direction parallel to a direction of separating the first unit and the second unit. The Kozuka et al. patent teaches a movable supporting member, 24, that is rotated. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to change the movable support member of Kozuka et al. so that is moved in a parallel manner, therefore the examiner has found that claims 4-7 and 11-13 contain allowable subject matter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaitlin S. Joerger whose telephone number is 571-272-6938. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9-5.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ksj

  
12 April 2006

  
**EILEEN D. LILLIS**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600